

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, EGEN, NO

SUBJ: "LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" MEETING ON U.N. SPECIAL SESSION

SUMMARY: UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ARNESEN AND SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY AID OFFICIAL, KNUT HEDEMAN, BRIEFED E/C COUNSLEOR JUNE 5 ON (A) RECENT MEETING OF SEVEN "LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" (NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK, FINLAND, THE U.K, THE NETHERLANDS AND CANADA) ON U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, AND (B) NORWEGIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD U.N. SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. THESE COUNTIRES HOPE TO ENCOURAGE GROUP OF 77 MODERATES WHICH ARNESEN BELEIVES ARE IN ASCENDENCY BY TAKING AN OPEN FORTHCOMING POSITION ON ISSUES AT THE SPECIAL SESSION. AT MEETING SEVEN SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE REFOR OF THE U.N. ALONG LINES OF THE GROUP OF 25 RECOMMENDATIONS, ENDORSED AN IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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TEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMODITIES SIMILIAR TO 7.K.

PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S KINGSTON PROPOSAL, AND DISCUSSED THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, INCLUDING REAFFIRMATION OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE TARGETS PLUS A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION ON ABOLISHMENT OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY. ARNESEN ALSO TABLED PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT OF A DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY WHICH NORWAY MAY PRESENT AT SPECIAL SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. ARNESEN EXPLAINED THAT RECENT MEETING OF LIKE-MINDED NATIONS IN OSLO GREW OUT OF DUTCH INITIATIVES STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY NORWAY. IDEA WAS THAT DEVELOPED NATIONS SHARING COMMON VIEWPOINTS AND POLICIES TOWARD LDCS AND U.N. QUESTIONS SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR VIEWS INFORMALLY. NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK, AND THE U.K. HELD AN INITIAL MEETING IN THE HAGUE IN APRIL. CANADA AND FINLAND JOINED THE GROUP FOR THE MEETING IN OSLO. ACCORDING TO ARNESEN THE SEVEN HOPE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE CONFRONTATION WILL YIELD TO A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND ENCOURAGEMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO G-77 MODERATES WHICH ARNESEN BELIEVES ARE GAINING STRENGTH. ARNESEN IDENTIFIED MODERATES AS INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND SAID EVEN ALGERIA MAY TONE DOWN AFTER PARIS PRERECOM.

2. THE FIVE POINTS CONTAINED IN CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER NO. 1. WERE USED IN THE OSLO MEETING AS A STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION. THREE MAJOR TOPICS WERE COVERED:

(A) CHANGES IN THE U.N. STRUCTURE--ARNESEN SAID SEVEN AGREED THAT CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE "U.N. CENTER". THEY SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE REPORT OF THE GROUP OF 25 EXPERTS ON REFORM OF THE U.S. . THEY AGREED THAT REPORT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO A POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY BEFORE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GA AND THOUGH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT MIGHT HAVE TO BE SEPARATE AND NOT CONSIDERED AS A PACKAGE. AMONG SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE SEVEN WERE CREATION OF A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AS AN ALTER-EGO TO WALDHEIM, THE STRENGTHENING OF ECOSOC, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CONSOLIDATION OF PRE-INVESTMENT FUNDING.

(B) COMMODITIES--DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AND PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S KANSAS CITY AND KINGSTON SPEECHES. THE SEVEN AGREED ON NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMODITIES AND FOR A POLITICAL "UMBRELLA" OR "CHAPEAU" UNDER WHICH COMMODITIES COULD BE HANDLED, BELIEVING THAT COMMODITY TRADE IS A POLITICAL

QUESTION AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH. INDEXATION MIGHT BE USED FOR SOME BUT NOT ALL COMMODITIES. BASIC AIM IS TO STABILIZE PRICES AND IMPROVE THE TERMS OF TRADE OF LDC COMMODITY EXPORTERS. ARNESEN HIMSELF MAINTAINED WE CANNOT LEAVE COMMODITIES VULNERABLE TO THE FLUCTUATIONS OF THE MARKET. LOME CONVENTION WAS CITED AS ONE APPROACH, BUT ARNESEN SAID SPECIAL SESSION WAS PROBABLY NOT PROPER FORUM FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.

(C) TRANSFER OF RESOURCES-THE SEVEN SUPPORTED MOST OF THE IN PRINCIPLES CONTAINED BUT NOT ALL SPECIFICS OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AND OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. RE-AFFIRMATION OF TARGETS FOR THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT WERE ALSO STRESSED, AND ARNESEN SAID THAT CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION ON ABOLITION OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY.

3. THE SEVEN PLAN ANOTHER MEETING IN EARLY AUGUST PERHAPS IN LONDON. ARNESEN CONSIDERS THE SEVEN CAN BE EFFECTIVE IF THEY WORK TOGETHER INFORMALLY--NO FORMAL CONSULTATIONS OR CAUCUSING IS ENVISAGED--ON U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS. HE SAID SEVEN HAD AGREED THAT NORWAY SHOULD KEEP U.S. INFORMED OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVEN AND THAT THE NETHERLANDS WOULD DO THE SAME FOR EEC MEMBERS.

4. AT THE MEETING OF THE SEVEN ARNESEN DISTRIBUTED A PRELIMINARY NORWEGIAN WORKING DRAFT OF A DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY. DECLARATION IS A POLITICAL/ PHILOSOPHICAL DOCUMENT DEALING WITH LDC ISSUES. ARNESEN STRESSED ITS PRELIMINARY CHARACTER AND SAID HE WAS UNCERTAIN IF IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL

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5. COMMENT: NORWAY AND THE OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES APPEAR TO CONSIDER THEY CAN PLAY A BRIDGE-BUILDING ROLE DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION BETWEEN THE LDCS AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE MAJOR POWERS. THE GROUP IS STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE AND MAY BE EXPANDED. A CANADIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT THE RECENT MEETING WAS AT TIMES CHAOTIC AND DISORGANIZED. IT IS OBVIOUS HOWEVER THAT ARNESEN AND THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON NORWAY'S POSSIBLE ROLE AND ON THAT OF THE OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AT THE UN SESSION. NORWAY HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO FURTHER FORMULATE POSITIONS ON U.N. ECONOMIC AND

SOCIAL ISSUES. AND ARNESEN HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD WELCOME
DIALOGUE WITH EMBASSY ON THESE ISSUES.

.6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
WHETHER IT WISHES EMBASSY TO PURSUE DIALOGUE SUGGESTED BY ARNESEN.
IF SO, EMBASSY WILL NEED TO BE KEPT CURRENT REGARDING U.S. THINK-
INF AND POSITIONS ON ISSUES INVOLVED.
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